

ELVS Methodology

- Prospective
- Longitudinal
- Community sample
- Well validated measures
- Combines direct assessment, self-report & questionnaires



ELVS is measuring

- Language & communication
- General development & health
- Family history
- Socio-demographic details
- Mental health & family stress factors
- Parent-child interactions
- Child behaviour & temperament
- Use of services



Study Setting & Participants

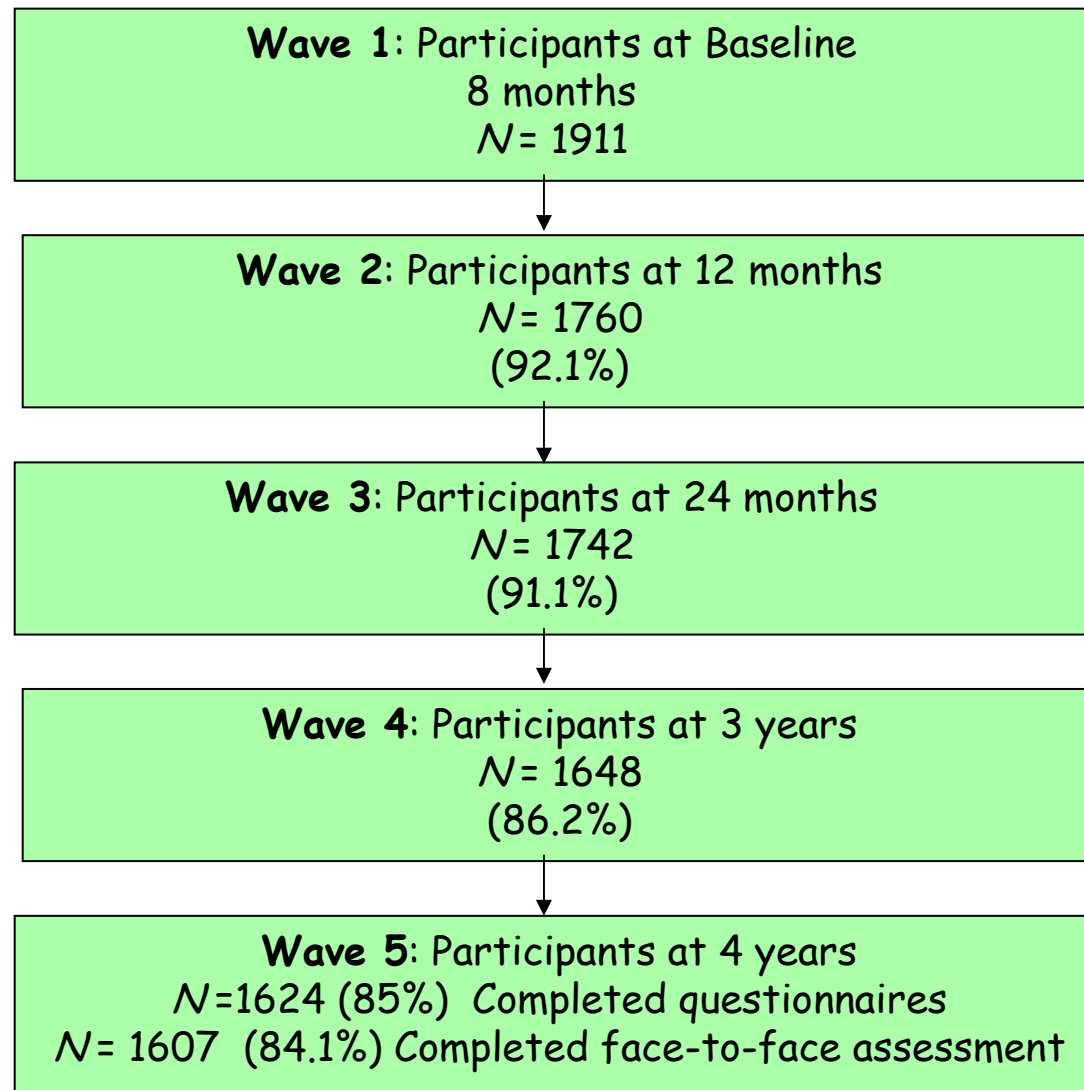
- 6 metropolitan Local Government Areas (LGAs) in Melbourne, Australia, chosen across SES (Census based)
 - High SES: Maroondah and Whitehorse
 - Middle SES: Brimbank and Banyule
 - Low SES: Casey and Whittlesea

Participants

- Recruitment
 - MCH nurses approached every eligible family- 8-10 month old infants
 - local Newspapers & Herald Sun, Health Watch column
 - MCH Hearing Screening Sessions
- Exclusions
 - Major medical condition/disability
 - Parents did not speak English to a level to participate in the study
 - Sensorineural HL



ELVS Participants



Cohort Characteristics

- $N = 1911$
- 50.5% male, 49.5% female
- 3.1% (60) premature (<36 weeks)
- 2.8% (53) non-singletons
- 6% (127) speak a language other than English in the home
 - approximately 50 different languages spoken



Reference

- Sheena Reilly, Edith Bavin, Lesley Bretherton, Tricia Eadie, Margot Prior, Obi Ukoumunne, Melissa Wake, Jemma Skeat, Ruth Nicholls (2009), Predictors, prevalence and preschool communication outcomes in a community cohort of Australian children: the Early Language In Victoria study (ELVS). Symposium presented at Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists Scientific Conference, London.